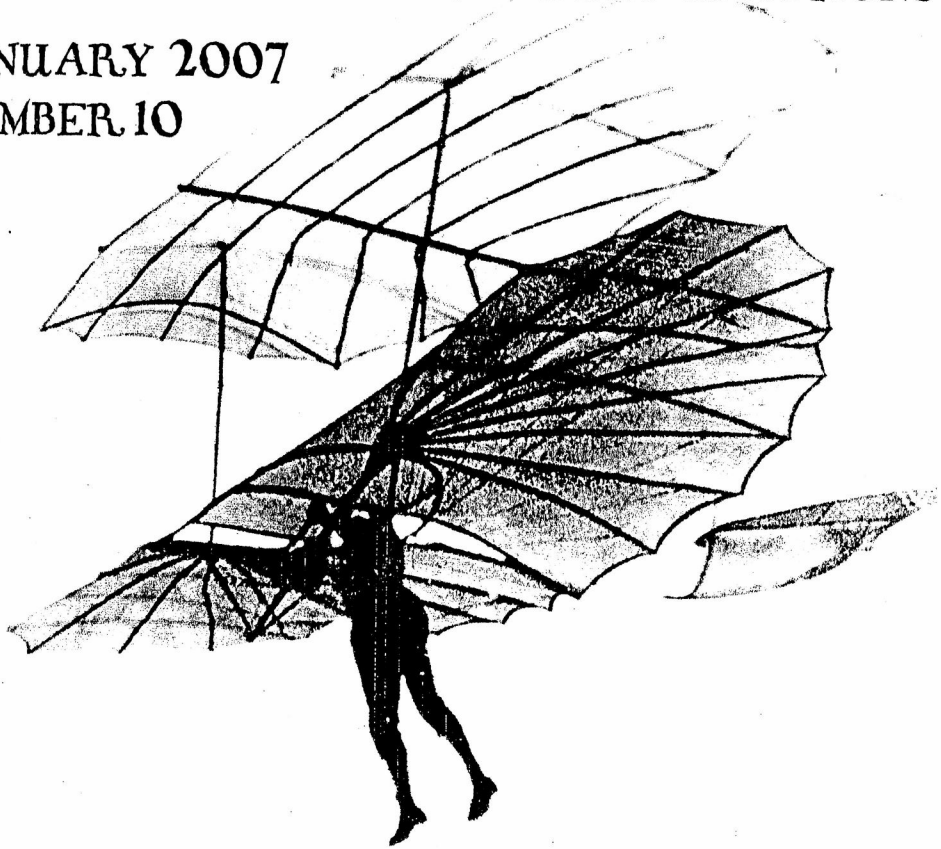
MUTINY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS

JANUARY 2007
NUMBER 10



THE YANKS ARE COMING: WARGAMES IN QLD

WHY YOU SHOULD WASH YOUR LETTUCE : FRUITPICKING EXPOSE

A SOLID COMBUSTIBLE : PROTESTER IN COURT

G20 ARRESTS UPDATE

& MORE...

Mutiny began as a group exploring different ways to resist war at home & abroad. We started a monthly zine to explore different avenues of resistance. We know there are lots of radical ideas around & we want people to write about their experiences & opinions. The Mutiny collective is meeting regularly again: we're looking at Australian imperialism & avenues of resistance in the Pacific region. Contact us if you're interested.

(The mutiny collective does not necessarily agree with all the opinions of the writers. Writers do not necessarily agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective. The mutiny collective does not necessarily agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective.)

love from your editors: Princess Mob, Graf Cat, Angry Nerd, Vikram & Changie McChangemind + Marshall Cinque

Thanks to everyone who helps with copying, especially the charming & reliable jura boy.

Every month we need contributions, from brief news & reviews to longer articles. And pictures! And money!

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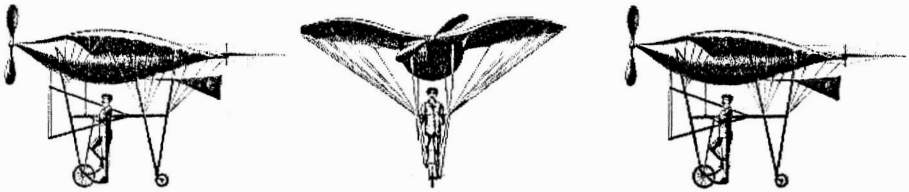


resurgence: sustainable queer communities

february 10th & 17th 2007

In 2005 a bunch of queers came together for Queeruption 7 - a DIY event consisting of 7 days of workshops, parties, sex, play, cuddles, politics, action, debate and much more. Two years on some of us whom were involved in Queeruption and the Queer Sydney online community are planning another gathering. Come discuss, party and play with us!

film night :: **Fri February 9th** :: The Nunnery :: 40 Forbes St, Newtown :: queer indy films

workshops :: **Sat 17th February** :: STUCCO :: 207 Wilson St, Newtown
What is queer community? What's important to us and what do we want?
Discuss issues and develop ideas around issues such as racism, queer spaces, polyamory..
create something :: come learn something new

party by night :: after the workshops :: also @ STUCCO

We hope this will be more than just a talk fest, or a place where you can come let loose. We hope from creating this space communities will forge, people will take their thoughts to the next level, that you can take that inspiration you felt in that workshop to create something new.

If you'd like to put on a workshop, submit a film, DJ or perform at the party please contact us at **resurgencesyd@gmail.com** :: **http://www.queeruption.org/sydney/index.html**

BRIEF NEWS

Copenhagen, Denmark

Supporters of a squatted youth center fought police in violent street battles after police tried to a halt a protest march against the center's planned eviction. The Ungdomshuset (Youth House) was founded by squatters in 1982 and was granted permission to stay by the City Council. In 2000 the government decided to sell the building to a Christian organization, but has not been able to evict the occupants since.

On Saturday about 1000 protesters convened a 4pm march at the Youth House, which was surrounded by police before leaving the area. Demonstrators responded to the provocation by shooting fireworks and sending a barrage of cobblestones and other missiles at the police. Soon thereafter rioters smashed the windows to dozens of corporate owned storefronts and lit numerous fires in intersections throughout the capital city. Immigrant youth also joined in the riot and took and took advantage of a chance to fight the police.

Some 300 people were arrested, more than half of whom have since been released. At least two people and three riot police officers were seriously injured. One demonstrator had two fingers blown off by a firecracker and another was run over by a police vehicle. The three officers were injured by flying cobblestones. The rioting was the worst the country had seen in at least ten years.

(http://bombsandshields.blogspot.com)

G20 solidarity

TRIVIA NIGHT

WEDNESDAY JAN 24 6.30pm

Abercrombie Hotel
(cnr Broadway & Abercrombie St, Sydney)

$3-5 to play

Donations also accepted.

In the best tradition of primary school fundraising efforts, we're having a trivia night to raise money to help the defence campaign for all the people arrested after the G20 protests. It's just like pub trivia, but with less questions on advertising campaigns. No obscure anarchist questions, we promise.

Aurukun, Queensland

Riots broke out in the remote Cape York Community of Aurukun after an Aboriginal man said he was beaten by police after his arrest.

About 300 people attacked the police station and police vehicles and looted the local shop and tavern of thousands of dollars worth of goods. A makeshift roadblock was set up 4km outside the community to prevent police reinforcements reaching the town.

Six police officers, one of the officer's family members, two Aboriginal elders and a community police officer barricaded themselves in the police station. One of the officers fired a warning shot from an unlicensed private rifle in an attempt to disperse rioters.

Nine alleged 'ringleaders' have been charged.

The riot is widely seen as evidence of growing anger against police after the death in custody of Mulrinji Doomadgee on Palm Island last year, for which no charges have been laid against police.

Burma

Forty-five Burmese political detainees have recently been released by the Burmese military junta. Five of those detained since last September, were prominent figures in the 1988 pro-democracy student and monk uprising which saw the downfall of the three successive governments of General Ne Win, Sein Lwin and Dr Maung Maung.

Though the military regime has not given reasons for the sudden releases, the BBC News states that the recent Asean summit in the Philippines allowed Asian foreign ministers the opportunity to voice their disapproval at the lack of democratic reform existing in Burma. A more cynical, yet a more likely reason, is that the move would allow Burma to stifle US efforts calling for it to improve human rights from being passed at the UN Security Council.

The United Nations estimates that there are about 1,100 political prisoners in Burma.

Paris, France

Squatters have pushed for a recognition of their rights under French Law and have had striking success in forcing through the first continental European Law which guarantees citizens the right to housing.

An unemployed actor named Augustin Legrand started the struggle in December of last year when he helped construct a tent city in a gen(ocide)trified section of Eastern Paris. The high profile media coverage of the campaign lewd to wide spread reporting throughout England and even cases of similar actions occurring in regional French cities and towns.

Whilst housing is considered a fundamental Human right in French society, it is only now being discussed in the context of a legally enforceable human right in the same vein as freedom of speech, guaranteed education and fair and equitable legal representation.

French Organizations such as *Droit Au Logement* and *Novox* have been instrumental in leading the campaign, turning the red tent city into a Ministry for Housing Crisis. The conservative Government of France has promised an enquiry into the crisis and promised 27,000 new shelter places for those in need, whilst the Socialist opposition has declared the necessity for a new Social Housing programme and the possibility of requisitions.

The Yanks are coming!
(to bomb the crap out of us)

- kimk for the Peace Convergence

If you knew the world's worst industrial polluters, imperialists and warmongers were being invited by the Federal Government to play war games in your back yard, what would you do about it?

In May/June 2007 Operation Talisman-Sabre (TS07) will see 30,000 U.S. and Australian troops doing what they do best – blowing stuff up, driving over it in tanks and armored vehicles, ploughing thru the sea with massive, polluting ships, filling the oceans with their submarine sonar, and practicing both on land and undersea with live, toxic ammunition for their next assault on Iraq or whoever gets in their way.

They'll be doing this on RAMSAR listed wetlands, in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and in your backyard: visiting local ports and airports in capital cites with nuclear-powered vessels potentially carrying nuclear and depleted uranium weapons. The games will principally be carried out in the Shoalwater Bay Defence Training Area (SWBTA) and the nearby Coral Sea section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in Queensland. They couldn't think of a more environmentally valuable place (outside of the forests of the Daintree or Tasmania) to blow things up.

The use of land and sea bombing, sonar, ship turbulence and the potential for toxic spills put many endangered species at risk. Shoalwater Bay is an absolutely vital habitat for the endangered Green Turtle: it has the highest concentration in the world of this declining species, this is their premier breeding habitat. There are also dugongs, who have precious few protected sea grass meadows left in the world. The Shoalwater Bay area is visited by loggerhead turtles, dolphins, migrating whales and hundreds of species of waterbirds, not to mention the diversity of fish species. The TS07 games endanger the groundwater and drinking water of the local human population who for too long have put up with trucks rumbling past their schools, low flying aircraft buzzing their homes and their nerves and windows rattled by bombing. There is also anecdotal evidence pointing towards an increase in sexual assaults on women and street violence while the troops are in town.

The Durumbal indigenous people of the region have not been made sufficiently aware of the risk presented by military activities on their land and in any case, are not free to dissent given the military have veto over access to their own land. They have no native title and have limited access to their land.

Both the ADF and the U.S. military have records of polluting and poisoning the environment and their own peoples. The ADF have dumped WW2 mustard gas in the ocean at several points around the Australian coastline, and abandoned radioactive vessels from the British Monte Bello atomic tests off Cape Moreton near Brisbane. The ADF deny that the military victims of the Maralinga atomic tests were affected by irradiation; and both the ADF and the U.S. Department of Defence deny that depleted uranium (DU) in the Gulf wars has affected thousands of U.S. and Australian troops and refuse to test for DU in their bloodstreams or compensate the victims.

The U.S. is the biggest industrial polluter in the world, and Project Censored estimates that "the U.S. military generates 750,000 tons of toxic waste material annually, which is more than the five largest chemical companies in the U.S. combined. This pollution occurs globally as the U.S. maintains bases in dozens countries." They have polluted local water sources, left DU contamination at their defunct base in Vieques, Puerto Rico, and poisoned the soil and water at bases, practice ranges and factories with heavy metals including mercury, cadmium, tungsten and lead. In the U.S. they are exempt from many important environmental laws.

It is likely that the SWBTA will already be contaminated after its 40 years of increasing military use. A study of military pollution in the U.S. found contaminants on those sites include buried munitions, unexploded ordinances, spilled oil, fuel and solvents, toxic explosive compounds including TNT and perchlorate, and heavy metals. Much of the pollution is the result of day-to-day maintenance and training such as that which will occur during the TS07 war games. It is likely that SWBTA is similarly contaminated, with both the ADF and U.S.DoD using the same munitions. In past military exercises in the SWBTA huge swathes of mangroves have been killed by white phosphorus according to eyewitnesses. Red phosphorus markers have washed up on the beach in nearby Yeppoon. After the 2005 wargames, bags of shipboard waste from U.S. vessels washed ashore at several Queensland locations. Sea dumping of trash is a common practice of the U.S. Navy.

There is no sense in which war or the practice for it can be considered environmentally sound. Yet this year the ADF's PR machine has been working overtime employing consultants to greenwash the games. Before and during the games they'll been out and about in the local community gardening at schools, performing with brass bands and showing off their killing machines as a spectacle for the kiddies to enjoy and become familiar with.

Indeed, each year the size of the U.S.-Aust joint war games has grown. The importance of the base increases with the closure of the base in Vieques where the U.S. were able to do ship to shore bombing (sensibly banned by the U.S. people on U.S. soil). In 2006 millions of dollars have been poured into increasing the technological capabilities of the base including a new virtual warfare area, new live firing range, hundreds of kilometers of computer cabling installed and millions spend on paving the roads into the base, many of which were

dirt in 2005. The ADF told us at the 2006 inquiry into the expansion of the base that i was not a permanent installation (they call it a 'training area') yet munitions, vehicle and technology are stored there and one military or another including Singapore, th Phillipines and others, use the SWBTA for 300 day a year. Call me cynical, but tha sounds like a full time base to me...

The U.S. military are war criminals. They continue to use D.U weapons despite the ba on such materials instituted by the UN. Not only do they operate outside the law, but the operate outside common decency and fair play. They have poisoned hundreds of place both in America and abroad with their munitions, bases and wars. They compensate n one, not even their own troops. As Gulf war veteran and DU victim Major Doug Rokk says: it's up to us – is a poisoned future what we want for this country?

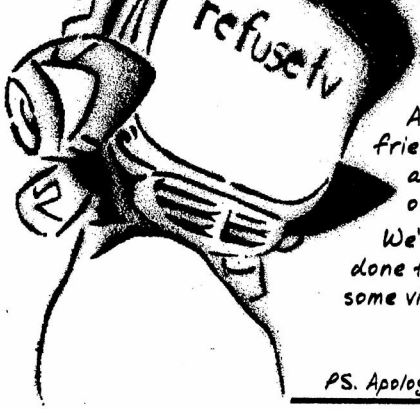
In 2005, fifty activists stage a Peace Convergence at SWBTA. A handful shut down th war games for few hours on two occasions, blocking the roads and holding up literall hundreds of tanks and troop carriers entering the base. We made local, regional an national news and alerted people to what was happening in their backyards. For the loca area, the issue hasn't gone away. In 2007 a coalition of over 20 Qld and national peac and environment groups are working to oppose the games, the ongoing U.S. Alliance an the war in Iraq.

We need you to make the 2007 Peace Convergence happen!

Peace Convergence: http://www.peaceconvergence.com
A complete environmental critique:
http://melbourne.indymedia.org/news/2006/11/130178.php

ReFuseTV issue #1 is complete!

It's a free DVD video zine with 12 videos on it including short films, kid's animations, docos and interviews about Redfern, Mexico and Palestine. The idea is - if you like it, make a copy and pass it on to anyone that might be interested.



If you want one or a few, e-mail us with your snail mail (mishunegro@internode.on.net) and we'll send it to you! Otherwise you can pick one up from Paint it Black on Enmore road or Jura Books on Parramatta road. Also we are open to zine or video swaps.

All our cases were dumpstered or donated by friends, but we will be in need of more so if you have any spare it would be great if you could send them our way.

We've already started work on issue #2 - it won't be done for a while but contact us if you want to enter some video submissions.

Keep rebelling,
MishuNegro.

PS. Apologies to Lyall Munro for spelling your name wrong - SORRY!

G20 Arrests

An abridged version of a fact-sheet prepared by Turner, Anita & G.

Since the G20 protests in November 'Taskforce Salver', set up to track down protesters, has made a number of arrests. People have been charged with combinations of riot, affray, criminal damage & reckless conduct endangering persons.

Everyone arrested has now been granted bail. Most people have similar bail conditions, which include: reporting to police two or three times a week, surrendering their passport, not leaving the state or the country, not attending any international points of departure & not communicating with any of the other accused. For some people this ban on communication means they are not allowed to communicate with close friends; it also limits their involvement in a defence campaign. Some people have successfully challenged this bail condition in court.

Most of the arrested also had their homes searched. Police confiscated items such as clothing, shoes & jewellery they were alleged to have worn to the protests, mobile phones, computers, bags, fliers, newspapers, Stop G20 stickers, lists of phone numbers & handwritten notes. For example, one person's flatmate was told by police that they were looking for clothes, coloured bandannas, white overalls, & any correspondence relating to or between members of arterial bloc, handwritten or in computer/media format.

All but one accused will have their brief of evidence presented on March 30, & the presentation of evidence is set for May 11.

The following is a summary of the arrests, compiled via interviews with the accused where possible.

Tim was snatched & arrested by plain clothes police at about 5pm on Saturday 18th November. Police did not allow Tim to contact the G20 legal team & Legal Aid lawyers were unavailable as it was after 5pm.

Though Tim did not tell them, police knew that he was leaving for Indonesia the next day. Police told Tim that as he was supposed to be leaving they would let him go & not charge him at that time. He was told to expect a summons when he got home to Sydney. At the time of writing, Tim has not received a summons & has not been charged.

Akin Sari was arrested on Sunday November 19, at Melbourne University.

At a hearing the next day the Magistrate denied Akin bail on the basis that he had a history of not turning up for court, & did not have stable accommodation.

Akin was not released until 14th December, on $2000 surety.

Dominic Richardson was arrested at his house on Tuesday December 5. Police claim to have evidence of Dom pushing a bin to a police barrier.

Rosalie Delaney had eight undercover police at her house at 7am on December 5.

She spent most of the day in isolation in a holding pen, was photographed, fingerprinted & stripsearched. The police would not let her call her family after she had called a lawyer. Rosalie gave a no comment interview. Rosie has been accused of damaging a police truck, for which she faces damages of about $8 500. She was bailed with $5000 as surety.

David Vakalis was arrested on December 6 & faced an out-of-sessions hearing at the St Kilda Road police complex. The hearing was told that he threw wheelie bins, street signs & milk crates at police vehicles. A call

to Crime Stoppers put police in touch with his university.

Isabella Brown was arrested on the evening of December 7 for driving offences preceding the G20 protest. Her home searched the next day. Police confiscated materials including many hours of footage of forest protests. It is unclear at the time of writing, but it is believed that Izzy's charges may have been dropped.

Danya Bryx was picked up on Friday December 8 while attending court on an unrelated matter & spent the weekend in remand.

The prosecution challenged bail because they accuse Danya of carrying a weapon (a metal pole). Danya was required to pay $4000 surety.

Julia Dehm was arrested at Danya's hearing on Monday December 11. Police then took items from her house. She had to pay $5000 bail.

Rural raids: On December 13, 11 armed cops – looking for David Candwell - raided three houses in Goongerah. They tried to get into a fourth house but as they had no warrant they were not allowed in. The police claimed entry into one house using section 49.51 'reasonable suspicion of harbouring.' A resident woke up with a 'capsicum spray bottle the size of a fire hydrant in [his] face'.

A week & a half before this cops started pulling cars over, hassling people down the street, & going into houses unannounced in what is thought to be G20 related aggression.

David Caldwell was arrested on December 15, charged with affray, rioting & reckless conduct endangering serious injury.

Luke: At around 2pm on January 8, 4 plain clothed police with ID tags around their necks arrived at Luke's family home. They showed him a search warrant, & he was allowed to re-enter his home, collect the things on the warrant (clothes he was allegedly wearing at the protest), & hand them to police.

At the police station he had to stand in the elevator with his nose to the corner. He was interviewed with only his father present, & cooperated with police during the interview.

He will appear in Children's Court on April 24.

Mitchell Jones: At 6am on January 9, 6-8 plain clothed police arrived at Mitch's house. He wasn't home so police phoned Mitch's dad & his girlfriend, searching for him.

At 7.30 am around 7-8 plain clothed armed police searched a community arts warehouse looking for Mitch.

They then called Mitch himself, who told them that he was on his way to St Kilda Police station. He took himself to the station, accompanied by his dad, & was arrested in the carpark. He was interviewed alone, though was able to speak to a lawyer on the phone. He gave a no comment interview.

Sofia Todorova: At around 7am on January 9, 6 plain-clothes police came to Sofia's house. She gave a no comment interview. They showed her a photo that allegedly depicted the action with which she was charged.

Rosalie Delaney's house was also searched again on the same morning with a warrant relating to Sofia's arrest.

Call **0408307722** to contact people in Melbourne organising support for those arrested and a political campaign surrounding the arrests. For information about G20 arrests & solidarity, see **http://arushandapush.blogsome.com.** Remember to say 'no comment.' **http://www.activistrights.org.au/**

A Solid Combustible

Mickey Skelton goes to court

The air in the court room is still, as are the people arranged theatrically around the room in a varied order of importance. This room is in direct contrast to the heavy bustle of the foyer where I have been sitting, behind the imposing security measures in place on the front door. Seated in the dock is a man with a jagged black hook beneath his eye, the red bloom around its edges enough to signal it as a fairly recent and very deep bruising. He slouches in his chair beside the guard, looking both confused and disinterested at opposing times. When he looks towards me I attempt a grim and appeasing smile, from one accused to another, but it doesn't register or interest him, and as he angrily stares I look away.

The court itself is full of a duplicitous tension. The way in which couples of people turn to whisper to each other, conducting business beneath the veneer of the magistrate's presence, echoes the obvious hierarchy of the courts rules of conduct.

My reflection upon this is broken as the court jerks itself back onto the focus of attention and leaps into business.

This stattacato burst of action is like a finely timed opening to a well scripted play, establishing scenario and atmosphere. I look back to the bruised man and am reminded that this is no performance – he stares sullenly, with lips slightly parted at the proceedings. Apparently he has committed some offence while out on bail for another offence, and is now in remand. His case is adjourned. He is lead back out the security door of the dock. His life is adjourned until he is called back before the court, apparently.

I didn't sleep at all well last night. I had some nightmare about not having shaved before going to court, or catching fire or something. A comrade arrives at my door early, carrying two motorcycle helmets and offering me a lift into the city. As we sit in the sunlit back yard having a cup of tea, me in only my underwear (having just arisen from bed), my housemate emerges with a SLR camera and takes a photo of us. We both ask at the same time whether he intends to use it as documentary evidence for something, and then laugh together. The same housemate was the person who answered the door at 6 am, two days ago, as 8 plain clothes police executed their search warrant on my house, overturning my small room and leaving it in disarray as they rabidly chased after whatever 'evidence' it was that they needed. Returning home after 6 hours in custody, two Styrofoam cups of water, about sixteen "no comment" answers, ten fingerprints and eight photos of my tattoos, I find almost all of my belongings heaped upon my bed, dribbling off onto the floor. There is no way to describe the way in which I feel that evening.

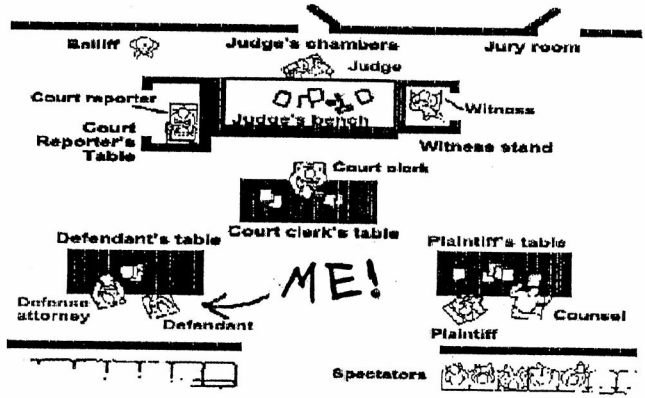
In custody I spend some parts of my six hours appreciating the visual arrangement created by the intersection between the large solid green tabletop, the blue chair cushioned chair opposite, and the Styrofoam cup of water, which has my last name neatly printed around the edge in carefully cursive letters. I take millions of mental photographs and compose a thousand burning paintings hallucinating off the scuff marks on the plain cream walls. My boots and both my necklaces (which I nearly never remove) have been seized rather politely by the two officers who I am dealing with – I am absolutely freezing in my black jeans and thin white cotton t-shirt. Thank

fuck I wore socks without holes in them. All day I think of biting pieces of smart-arsitry which could deliver upon the cops, and then realise that for once in my life I have a reason to keep my fucking mouth shut. Nonetheless I play out these comments against the cream walls, watching them bounce around between the fluoro lights and the solidly locked door.

In the foyer of the court rooms the same white cotton t-shirt is covered by a silver gray shirt sensible enough to look reserved, alternative enough to make me feel comfortable. A heavy enamel badge of the red and black star is pinned over where my heart would be, if my heart had been displaced to the right hand side of my chest. Nonetheless it is there. My favourite boots have been seized by the po-lice, and having been horrified at the stupidity of sneakers, which after all, are merely cloth bound to your feet with string, I have replaced them with a fine pair of brown blundstones - the hillbilly slippers. Altogether I feel and appear heavy, like some form of solid combustible. Later in the day, after the brief hearing, my father tells me that I must reserve and control my emotional volatility, for matters where it is appropriate. He knows all too well that I get upset and angry very easily, and suggests instead that I transfer that intensity into rational and calm resistance. I feel completely unable to do so however, and have never been able to explain adequately to my parents the way in which my seething internal anger motivates and drives me, perhaps because it is indeed a purely juvenile force, unrefined by the years of a longer life.

At 19 I am facing the first criminal charges which have ever been levelled against me, for two counts of riot, two of affray, one of criminal damage to police property and one of reckless conduct endangering persons. When I tell my comrade this he laughs as I struggle to keep the broad smile from creeping across my face. Although it is not a path of action which I would have chosen for myself and my family, I will endeavour to learn as much as I can from this experience as I work through whatever it is which I must now confront. I am determined not only to remain calm about it all, although at heart I feel a deep sadness which I cannot explain, but also to use my experience in a constructive and positive way.

I expect no mercy from the organised forces at play in the morning's hearing, and I will make no concessions to their efforts to destabilise my polite and reserved manner when dealing with them.



I will gain from this experience, and I will remain determined that what transpires between the organised human forces of our society must be challenged, and that we have a responsibility to remain involved both as a point of resistance and as a point of creation for something better.

I thank everyone who has sent me messages of support, and wish everybody luck with their own personal struggles.

If there is a hell, its fires wait for them, not us.

Why you should wash your lettuce

wladimir, aka, the fruit and vegie grinder from hell

As most of you might know, most foreigners travelling through Australia use what is referred to as a "Working Holiday Maker Visa-subclass 417." This visa allows you to work at the same place for up to 6 months, implies a few restrictions when it comes to undertaking studies or professional training during your stay, and offers the option of spending 3 months doing seasonal work in regional Australia to people who want to apply for a second Working Holiday Maker Visa (there also are other ways of extending your visa or being granted permanent citizenship/residency, which include joining the Australian army, or getting sponsorship from an Aussie born girl/boyfriend). "Seasonal work in regional Australia" basically means working on farms picking fruits and vegetables, even if the Australian government has recently extended this to include other jobs in pearling, fishing, mining and other industries, as well as any kind of work in remote areas of WA.

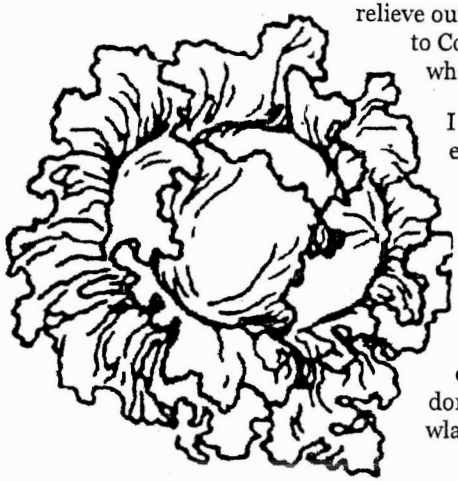
Since English ain't my first language and this being my first time writing for a zine, I hope you guys can put up with my awkward way of expressing myself while relating my seasonal work experience; I also want to put it straight that my only intent is just to make you a little more aware of what's going on out there in your countryside, for I can't pretend to be smart enough to bring any improvement to a system I've been observing for just a year - I've never wanted to go political since I've been spending my high school days ditching history classes, and I hate speaking about things I know little or nothing about.

The main change the Working Holiday Maker Visa has brought to hundreds of Australian country towns is the creation of a whole new industry: welcoming and employing backpackers willing to extend their visas ; and since there is loads of money to be made, lots of people take advantage of foreigners who end up working in fields to fill in for the shortage of workers that occurs in the countryside (the main reason for the Australian government requesting 3 months working in farms is that most Australian people over 18 just don't want to work on farms, since there is better money to be made doing other jobs). The result is that lots of small towns, with a prevailing strong sense of community, now experience a constant flow of strangers stopping by for a short period of time to work on farms, exacerbating feelings such as xenophobia and hostility towards foreigners "coming to steal [peoples'] jobs and who can't even speak English." (By the way, all the quotes here are words I've actually heard from people, I'm not making up or exaggerating anything even if sometimes I wish it was the case). "Racism" is a word I would like to avoid using as much as possible, but after spending almost a year over here, i must admit that to me Australia is a country in which a big majority of the people are pretty close-minded and nationalistic, since being a piece of white trash often saw me being treated better than other people.

Work on most farms is provided by contractors who organize workers being picked up in the morning to be driven on farms to work during the day and sign the second visa form requested when applying for your second visa; this is where most of the abuse takes place, with some contractors underpaying workers who can barely speak english, overcharging them with extra fees for transport to the field, taking every opportunity they can find to talk to them like they were pieces of crap, keeping the good working places for white workers or making up excuses for not signing their second visa forms. I witnessed, among other things,

this contractor offering to sign asian girls' forms in exchange for 2000 bucks or a blowjob, or local kids throwing canola seeds at me on my way back from groceries (thinking about how their parents must be praising them for doing so was much less fun than seeing them run away at the sight of my working knife). The working day often starts early in the morning, and most afternoons are spent hanging out in town, at the local swimming pool or public library, where people put it straight that they are the locals and that you are a stranger; it was also pretty amusing to see shopkeepers' friendly faces and behaviour change as soon as I would start talking, revealing my foreign accent . Not to mention people provoking you into fights in the clubs on Saturday nights or how locals and supervisors working on the farms spend their days trying to hit on the backpacking girls and treat you like crap, thinking that it makes them look smarter to the girls (I guess that as a supervisor you must be looking pretty cool in front of your mates at the pub when you ramble about how you "rode the Pommy chick.") Don't get me wrong, working on farms in the countryside has actually brought me much more than a sore back and scars from mishandling machetes, allowing me to discover a side of Australian culture that you don't see on tourist brochures. It also gave me the chance to meet all sorts of different people from all cultures and backgrounds while making money by doing so (it's easy to save up money when you're stuck in a hole with nothing to do). I just feel like pointing out the fact that getting blamed for stealing peoples' jobs when these very people would rather stay home waiting for their money from Centrelink is a bit of a contradiction. [*Uh, this seems like a sensible choice to us- Eds.*] I mean, I would rather have made my money over here by pouring schooners in pubs (it would have been better for my English than spending my days cutting and stacking celery or pruning vines), but most bar managers made it clear that they would not hire a foreigner unless the foreigner is a girl – damn I really got ripped off paying to get my RSA and RCGs.

And considering the growing number of backpackers coming to Australia every year, it does not seem likely to change; when sharing my experience with other travellers I often get accounts of fights breaking out because of backpackers losing it due to being treated like slaves by working supervisors or ripped off by people providing accommodation. I don't mean that ALL people in the Australian countryside are inbred scumbags overwhelmed with pride of being Aussies who would diss about anyone who cannot speak English: but to answer this Sydney punk who called me stupid when I told him how some of us would relieve our bladders on bins full of lettuce heading straight to Coles and Woollies, in my language we say that one who ceases to be loved ceases to be loving...



I love it over here but lots of things I've experienced make me feel like this is not the place I would like to live in. I just want to make people a little more aware of what's going on when you go out of the city, "it's really a whole different world out there" as a friend I made over here once told me.

For any comment, should it be of total disagreement or death threats, please don't bother Mutiny people, here's my email: wladgod@hotmail.com

REVIEWS

hildren of Men
ilm)

'hat would you do if the whole of humanity ıd become sterile and childless, and you ere caught in the middle of a firefight when l of a sudden you come across the only ewborn baby in existence? Cease firing of urse (though we'd probably be cowering in e corner somewhere). The preciousness of e is explicit in the dystopian film Children Men and the scene just described is one of e most viscerally vivid anti-war scenes we'd en in years. Its representation of violence ıd war is excellently underglorified: s portrayed as pointless, banal and yet ırrific.

ıe cinematography and directing is striking .d naturalistic, not that there aren't some surreal moments, but the film moves away from an establishing shot - medium shot - close up scene structure to a far more involving format, the shots being long and the frame open, allowing us to examine the scene and any details we wish; details which the film is overflowing with. Coupled with great performances, this makes a highly watchable film.

Its critical commentary on immigration is potent, relevant and difficult to ignore. The way other people walk past the illegal immigrants in steel cages as an everyday reality is similar to the way we walk around today; most of us feeling too impotent to do anything about stopping war or Australia's treatment of illegal immigrants or police violence or poverty.

Though the future looks gloomy, at least the 'pull-my-finger' gag is still around – thank god for that!

Angry Nerd & Dumpstered Twin

EOPLE'S OCCUPATION OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COAL PORT

A land vigil and colourful harbour flotilla

ım, Saturday 10th February, 2007 :: Horseshoe Beach, Newcastle (aka the Dog Beach)

th plans to double coal exports, Newcastle Port is at the coal-face of global ecological disaster. Any expansion of at is already the world's largest coal port would be directly opposite to the changes we must make to achieve a itive future for the planet, the people of the world, the people of NSW.

1pm, February 10th, Newcastle Harbour will see a peaceful vigil and press conference at Horseshoe Beach, ompanying a colourful floating community demonstration against NSW coal expansion. Let's send a clear ssage to the parties campaigning for the NSW election in March:

NO NEW COAL LOADERS :: NO NEW COAL MINES
A JUST TRANSITION TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

cards, banners, rubber duckies, kayaks, canoes, yachts, surfboards, rafts, floating banners, pontoons, peddle boats, / boats, water bikes, sail boats - people united for a sustainable future!!!

Contact: Steve – 0437 275 119 :: Emma – 0400 906 699 :: newcastle.flotilla@gmail.com

VP would be helpful. Let us know if you need/can provide transport, or if you can supply vessels and/or life kets (we need as many as possible!)

yak training days will take place in the lead-up to the event.

ined First Aid practitioners will be present to ensure safety on the day.

Limp Wrist & Kiosk at MANacle (gig)

Before the band has even played we have a conversation that goes something like this:

Princess Mob – This is what I always wanted gay bars to be like. This is what gay bars should be like.
Vikram – Yeah, and this is what all hardcore shows should be like.

Even with $5 beer, $15 entry, a fifty minute queue to get in and a space not ideally suited to bands – I'm so glad no-one fell down the stairs – everyone I saw was wondering around with Best Show Ever grins.

It was about the crowd – regulars of MANacle (a gay leather bar, or, as the website proclaims, a bar for MEN who like MEN), crusty punk kids, the indie-rock girl gang, fabulously costumed freaks, punk dykes – a bunch of people who wouldn't ordinarily be in the same room, and for the queer-punks, a rarely found home.

There was pre- and post-show music you could dance to. Kiosk played their usual jerky fun show despite tech problems and a drum kit threatening to fall off the stage. I didn't catch the performances, but applaud boy strippers at punk shows on principle.

Limp Wrist kick off with 'I love hardcore boys, I love boys hardcore'. The sweaty, crush of bodies exert so much energy dancing to this one song I wonder how we'll keep up with the incredible speed of the music. Thankfully the songs are short and charismatic singer Martin (standing in the midst of the loving audience thanks to the practically non-existant stage) is happy to keep up the banter.

While mostly the lyrics are screamed too fast to catch, this crowd seems to know the songs well and scream right back in the moments where it's possible. The band seems to be enjoying themselves too, as first Martin then the drummer throw themselves into the audience. The politics and reasons behind songs such as 'The Ode' and 'Limp Wrist vs Dr Laura' are explained in a too the point kind of way – 'The Ode' being a tribute to the older queer-punks who made the scene and kept it going. It provides a further context to why we're watching this amazing hardcore band in a leather bar that has never hosted a band before.

Limp Wrist make the masculinity of so much hardcore (sexually) explicit – and this queering makes it so much more attractive.

Princess Mob & Vikram

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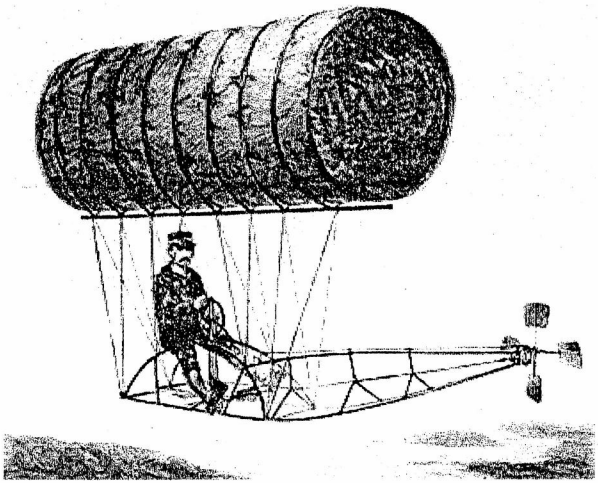
5 – Kim k gives advanced warning that 'The Yanks are coming' & of the disastrous environmental impacts their war 'games' with Australia will have.

8 – A detailed update on the situation with arrests & the defence campaign post-G20.

10 – As the heat is turned up on the G20 arrestees, 'A Solid Combustible' gives a personal account of a day in court facing the collaborating arms of the state.

12 – Pissy conditions while fruit-picking drive Wladimir to take revenge on some lettuce.

14 – Reviews of Limp Wrist & Children of Men.



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